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SOURCE Hsin-sheng-pao. (Information requested.)TAIWAN CEMENT COMPANY PRODUCTION

In 1948 the Taiwan Cement Company produced 235,300 tons, an average of about 20,000 tons per month. The company plans to increase output in 1949 to 360,000 tons.

This company is a joint enterprise of the National Resources Commission and the Taiwan Government. Commission officials have praised it as one of the most progressive of their enterprises. It controls plants in Takao (Kao-hsiang), Suo (Su-ao), and Chikuto (Chu-tung), the first being the largest. The total wartime capacity of this plant was 400,000 tons per year, but because of heavy damage and shortage of foreign exchange, repair has been difficult and slow, one kiln taking more than a year to put in shape. Consequently, it reached an output in 1948 of only 100,000 tons. The Suo plant has had water trouble as well as equipment difficulties. The shortage of water caused a temporary shutdown. This plant should have a capacity of 200,000 tons a year, but last year it actually produced less than half that amount.

The Chikuto plant was begun after the war. It has transport difficulties. The quarries are situated 18 kilometers away, and since modern transport facilities are lacking, production is often interrupted.

Beginning this year, the Company will strive to expand its equipment. A light railway has been laid between the Chikuto plant and Chikuto village, and limestone can be brought over from Suo so as to avoid shutdowns. Every effort will be made to reach the over-all target of 360,000 tons. If this is achieved, it will surpass the maximum production (less than 340,000 tons) under Japanese occupation.

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